

Walbert Receives Maryland's Distinguished Service Award

BY SUE CROW

Maryland Correspondent

The Maryland Holstein Breeders recognized Frank Walbert for his sincere service to the Maryland Holstein Association at the State Fair in Timonium. Fifty years ago he was born in Queen Anne's County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. In his growing years he was active in his local 4-H and FFA clubs and in the Purebred Holstein Association and the judging teams. He was a member of the 1955 Maryland 4-H judging team which won the National contest where Frank placed as 2nd high individual. The following year he was a member of the winning team at the international contest.

Frank now lives in Ellicott City. He is the manager of the University of Maryland Dairy-Forage Research Farm, a position he has held for 22 years. For the past 23 years he has been serving as the Assistant Dairy Superintendent.

In 1969 Frank became a life member of the Maryland Dairy Shrine Association. He has been showing Holsteins for the last 24 years at local, district and state show. Frank credits his dairy coach John Morris as the one individual influencing his love of cows and success in life and his desire to serve the promotion and betterment of the Holstein breed.

During the years, Frank and his

family have been extremely successful in the annual Hoard's Dairyman Judging contest. As a family they were fourth in 1969, second in 1985 and have won the family division for 3 years, 1971, '75 & '81. His daughter, Julie has followed in her father's footsteps as she just recently won the Maryland PDCA Junior Dairyman of the Year contest at the fair this year. She also has been on the Maryland judging teams and Dairy Bowl team. Her judging team placed second in the nationals in 1983.

Frank has shared his expertise and heritage with his fellow Holstein Breeders in many ways. He has coached the Maryland Dairy Bowl team for five years, and the 1987 team won the national contest this year. Frank has been the chairman of the All-Maryland awards for eight years and is a past chairman of the Maryland Junior Activities Committee. For many years he found ways to be involved in some way with the youth. He is presently a state director for Sire Power and serves on the Holstein Sire Committee.

Whenever Frank has been asked to share himself for the betterment of the Registered Holstein Cow and for service to the Registered Holstein Breed, Frank has responded willingly and with a strong sense of responsibility.



Receiving Maryland's Distinguished Service Award from left to right are: son-in-law John, daughter Anne and Julie, wife Palge, recipient Frank Walbert, Denny Remsburg presenting the plaque on behalf of Remsburg Sale Service donors of the trophy.

Transfer Of Development Rights In Maryland

Montgomery County, Maryland, is an urban county with a population of 650,000 located adjacent to Washington, D.C. About 100,000 acres of the county's 317,000 acres are farmed; the remaining acres have been developed for urban use. Continuing

pressure from urban development has caused agricultural and other interests to be concerned about preserving agricultural land and open space. One innovative and successful approach taken by the county to address this issue involves a program that allows the

sale or transfer of development rights by farm landowners to developers. The program is receiving substantial attention from officials in other urban areas and some claim it is a model for preserving agricultural land.

The plan for the sale of development rights was adopted by the county in 1980. Under this plan, 89,000 acres were designated as an Agricultural Reserve and several urban areas were designated as places where increased development density would be permitted.

Landowners in the Agricultural Reserve were given one Transfer Development Right (TDR) for every 5 acres. Landowners could, if they wished, sell these TDR's to developers. Under terms of the sale, development of the land is prohibited in perpetuity. Developers may build one additional housing unit in any area which has been designated for increased density for each TDR they purchase. As of July 1987, about 10% of the TDR's in the Agricultural Reserve have been sold to developers and another 15% are in the process of being transferred.

The price of TDR's is determined by negotiations between sellers and buyers. Recently, the price of most TDR's has ranged between \$4000 and \$5000 per TDR or \$800 and \$1000 per acre.

The TDR program has several advantages. One advantage is flexibility as farm landowners can sell one or all of their TDR's anytime. Another advantage is that the sale can usually be completed in less than 6 months. A third advantage is that there is virtually no cost to taxpayers.

The TDR program is not without criticism, however. One objection is the program provides a subsidy for developers. It is estimated that a TDR is worth about \$10,000 to developers, nearly double what they pay for it. Another objection is that the program provides an unnecessary subsidy for some farm landowners. The 89,000 acres in the Agricultural Reserve includes land that is not suitable for either farming or development under current conditions, but this land was included when determining the number of TDR's to be awarded. Third, neighbors in or adjacent to increased density areas objected to the increased density and because they did not receive any compensation for increased congestion and possible decrease in property values.



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